

1 Claims

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3 What is claimed is:

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5 *Sub B2* 1. A method of controlling a contention state for a communication link between a
6 base station controller and customer premises equipment in point-to-multipoint communication,
7 comprising the step of:

8 controlling the contention state using a state machine, the state machine including
9 a grant pending absent state in which the customer premises equipment is polled with a unicast
10 request slot, wherein during the grant pending absent state, the customer premises equipment
11 sends no upstream data to the base station controller but can use the unicast request slot to
12 request a data slot for sending upstream data to the base station controller.

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14 2. A method as in claim 1, wherein the state machine further includes an idle state
15 in which the customer premises equipment awaits arrival of data packets to send as upstream
16 data to the base station controller.

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18 3. A method as in claim 2, wherein the state machine further includes a deferring
19 state in which the customer premises equipment requests grant of a data slot for sending
20 upstream traffic to the base station controller and if necessary defers contending for the data slot
21 so as to avoid collisions with other customer premises equipment.

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23 4. A method as in claim 3, wherein the state machine further includes a grant
24 pending state in which the customer premises equipment awaits and receives grant of the data
25 slot for sending upstream data to the base station controller and sends upstream data to the base
26 station controller after grant of the data slot.

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2 *Sub B* 5. A method as in claim 4, wherein in the grant pending state, the customer
3 premises equipment uses piggybacking to request grant of a next data slot while sending
4 upstream data to the base station controller.

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6 6. A method as in claim 5, wherein the state machine enters the deferring state
7 upon arrival of data packets to send as upstream data to the base station controller,
8 wherein the state machine enters the grant pending state after the deferring state,
9 returns to the deferring state if a collision occurs, and remains in the grant pending state when
10 sending upstream data to the base station controller with piggybacking, and
11 wherein the state machine enters the grant pending absent state after the customer
12 premises equipment has sent upstream data to the base station controller in the grant pending
13 state.

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15 7. A method as in claim 6, wherein the state machine further includes an
16 unsolicited grant pending state in which the customer premises equipment receives grant of the
17 data slot for sending upstream data to the base station controller and sends upstream data to the
18 base station controller after grant of the data slot, without having requested the data slot.

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20 8. A method as in claim 7, wherein the state machine further includes an
21 unsolicited grant pending absent state in which the customer premises equipment is polled with
22 the unicast request slot,

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24 wherein during the unsolicited grant pending absent state, the customer premises
equipment sends no upstream data to the base station controller but can use the unicast request
slot to request the data slot for sending upstream data to the base station controller, and

wherein the state machine enters the unsolicited grant pending absent state after the customer premises equipment has sent upstream data to the base station controller in the unsolicited grant pending state.

9. Customer premises equipment that communicates over a communication link with a base station controller in point-to-multipoint communication, comprising:

a transceiver, and

a controller that controls a contention state for communicating over the

communication link via the transceiver, the controller using a state machine for controlling the contention state, the state machine including a grant pending absent state in which the customer premises equipment is polled with a unicast request slot, wherein during the grant pending absent state, the customer premises equipment sends no upstream data to the base station controller but can use the unicast request slot to request a data slot for sending upstream data to the base station controller.

10. Customer premises equipment as in claim 9, wherein the state machine further includes an idle state in which the customer premises equipment awaits arrival of data packets to send as upstream data to the base station controller.

11. Customer premises equipment as in claim 10, wherein the state machine further includes a deferring state in which the customer premises equipment requests grant of a data slot for sending upstream traffic to the base station controller and if necessary defers contending for the data slot so as to avoid collisions with other customer premises equipment.

12. Customer premises equipment as in claim 11, wherein the state machine further includes a grant pending state in which the customer premises equipment awaits and

1 receives grant of the data slot for sending upstream data to the base station controller and sends
2 upstream data to the base station controller after grant of the data slot.

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4 *Sub* 13. Customer premises equipment as in claim 12, wherein in the grant pending
5 state, the customer premises equipment uses piggybacking to request grant of a next data slot
6 while sending upstream data to the base station controller.

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8 14. Customer premises equipment as in claim 12, wherein the state machine
9 enters the deferring state upon arrival of data packets to send as upstream data to the base station
controller,

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1 wherein during the unsolicited grant pending absent state, the customer premises
2 equipment sends no upstream data to the base station controller but can use the unicast request
3 slot to request the data slot for sending upstream data to the base station controller, and
4 wherein the state machine enters the unsolicited grant pending absent state after
5 the customer premises equipment has sent upstream data to the base station controller in the
6 unsolicited grant pending state.

A^{act}
B₂